

REVIEWS

Guide to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. By WALTER KNIGHT with IRJA KNIGHT. East Bay Regional Park District, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, CA 94619-2443. 1988. 490 pp., Soft cover. \$20.00.

Any walk through the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden Park in Berkeley, CA is a delight. However, if you seek a particular taxon then the new revision of *Guide to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden* provides a valuable assist. Hereafter, I will refer to the revision as the Guide.

The garden is divided into ten sections representing major botanic regions of California. The planted beds in each section are identified by color coded stakes. Individual plants are labeled with the same sectional color and also by number (e.g., the SIERRAN plants in Section 6 are in Bed numbers 601–662 and are color coded Blue).

The Guide includes a California map illustrating the general location of the ten major botanic regions. A map of the Botanic Garden helps you to find a specific section in the garden. Inconveniently, these two important maps are 32 pages apart. The first 38 pages are numbered by Roman Numerals; the remaining pages of the Guide are not numbered. Access to the plant data is provided by an index at the end of the text.

The index, nicely highlighted by buff-colored pages, is an alphabetical listing of scientific and common names, the latter in bold face. I would have preferred the scientific names to be bold face type. Numbers following the names refer to bed numbers in the several sections (e.g., *Ceanothus roderickii* 610, 647).

Bed 647 contains eight species including 84.320 *Ceanothus roderickii* Knight. PINE HILL CEANOTHUS. The number 84.320 means that this specimen was the 320th acquisition made in 1984. Other data include: family name, rare & endangered status, location, habitat, flowering time, morphology, habit, and county. I tested the accuracy of the Guide by locating many plants and found no errors in my test sample.

Besides the ten major sections there are three special habitats: the ANTIOCH DUNES area (yellow labels), the COASTAL DUNES area (yellow labels), and the POND area (small brown labels). White labels either indicate self-sown plants native to the park or plants not native to California.

The Guide begins with pertinent "General Information" and a good "Using the Guide" portion. Also included are "more history", reports, a weed list, literature cited, Indian (Native American) culture literature, glossary, and illustrations of plant structural attributes. If the editors of a future revision would place much of the supporting information in appendices, then the two critical maps would be together. This would make the Guide even more effective.

The East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden is a beautiful, functional asset to those of us who enjoy plants. The *Guide to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden* greatly enhances the value of the garden.—CLIFFORD L. SCHMIDT, Department of Biological Sciences, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0100.

Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Edited by JAMES P. SMITH and KEN BERG, illustrated by LORAN MAY. California Native Plant Society, Special Publication Number One (4th ed.), Sacramento. Sep. 1988. 168 pp. Softbound. \$19.95.

The California Native Plant Society has, since its inception in the 1960's, been "Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora". A central feature of this